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The author's program includes two sets of recommendations, none too closely connected. The first set has special reference to the building up of American foreign trade. Laws should be enacted, Mr. Sherrill urges, modifying the Interstate Commerce Act so as to permit railroads to grant preferential rates on goods to the seaboard intended for export, and so amending the Sherman Act that it shall be lawful to make combinations for trade outside our borders. The nation, moreover, should take immediate steps to free itself from the meshes of those treaties which are "strangling" the merchant marine. The second set of suggestions looks toward the establishment of permanent peace in the two Americas. Taking advantage of the present financial dependence of European countries upon the United States, we are to ask these countries "to release to the sovereignty of the peoples themselves all colonial territory owned by them in the Western Hemisphere." Canada, it is explained, "can have her independence whenever she likes," and hence her status as part of the British Empire need not greatly concern us. Other American territories belonging to European nations are to be bought or begged. Then by means of financial pressure and by persuasion partly moral and partly pecuniary, America is to be safeguarded from friction with Europe. The released territories may be apportioned in such a way as would best serve to strengthen Latin America. The gift of the three Guianas might, in Mr. Sherrill's opinion, be made to further "the statesmanlike project of Bolivar . . . a splendid confederation of the Guianas with Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador." Peace with Asia is to be assured by the complete detachment of the United States from every supposed Asiatic interest. The "open door" policy is to be frankly abandoned, and the Philippines are to be given up. Thus Mr. Sherrill's "triangle of peace" is completed.

In this book there is real knowledge, idealism, vigorous, suggestive thought. As a discussion of the foreign policy of the United States, the treatise, however, is too slight to be convincing. On the whole, the author fails to give such a definition of Pan-Americanism as will satisfy skeptics that this policy is necessary, safe and practicable.

THE END OF A CHAPTER. By Shane Leslie. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1916.

Few books of seemingly desultory reminiscence and comment equal this of Mr. Shane Leslie's in a certain vitality of thought and pungency of expression. Apparently aiming at brilliancy and certainly attaining it, the author has packed his book with anecdotes really meaningful and choice in flavor, with shrewd criticisms, and with sayings arrestingly epigrammatic; and he has fastidiously omit-

ted whatever might seem to be padding or mere indulgence in the joy of writing. The note of it all is personal and genuine, and the underlying spirit of this unusually entertaining book is one of deep seriousness. "It was while invalided in hospital during the Great War," Mr. Leslie tells us in his prefatory note, "that I began to record notes and souvenirs of the times and institutions under which I had lived, realizing that I had witnessed the suicide of the civilization called Christian and the travail of a new era to which no gods have been as yet rash enough to give their name." Not the lurid glare of battle, but a faint, disastrous gleam from this new era lights the pages of Mr. Leslie's book.

The book begins with a chapter of "links with the past"—reminiscences mostly drawn from the memory of Mr. Leslie's grandfather, who "while a Harrow boy subscribed to the first shilling parts of the *Pickwick Papers*," and can remember five reigns. Personal recollections of Walter Scott, the youthful Ruskin, Newman, Napoleon III, D'Orsay—the last of the Dandies—and many other notables, are included in the narrative. Mr. Leslie's grandfather remembers the famous prize fight between Sayers and Heenan, "which roused more real feeling between England and America than the *Alabama*," and he was the last sportsman to use a muzzle-loader to shoot pheasants. An artist, he was the close friend of Holman Hunt and of Millais, and he may justly claim to be regarded as "the last of the pre-Raphaelites."

In its succeeding chapters, Mr. Leslie's book becomes a short anatomy of English society, a cursory analysis of Church and State, of universities and schools, of politics and politicians, of sport and imperialism and freedom. Somewhat apart stands an illuminating chapter upon "Ireland and the Irish." Dealing with these topics in the untrammelled manner of good talk, the author tells as much perhaps about national traits and conditions as could a writer of greater philosophic pretensions.

Good talk, of course, is not argument; its value often lies simply in its stimulating epitomes of views and impressions. Somehow Mr. Leslie manages to be unreverent without being flippant, to be unsparingly critical yet never sadly satirical. Without giving serious ground for offense he can write that King Edward was "a go-between rather than a statesman, a conversationalist rather than a man of letters, but . . . the only diplomat in the public service"; that "George V may rouse his subjects' mirth, but he is their best figurehead sailing through the waters of Armageddon"; that "the Church of England reigns chiefly as a social club, with which are deposited the moral standards of society"; that "an appreciation of sportsmanship is the test for autonomy through the Empire." It would be a mistake to read Mr. Leslie's book unhumorously, a greater mistake not to perceive its essential earnestness.